

The

RICHMOND REVIEW

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Woman Keeps Going, & Going ...

page 9

New light for Geary may end stop sign fiasco

by Tom Prete

An intersection in the Richmond district that gets traffic heavy in both cars and controversy will receive signal lights within a year, according to a City land use committee.

The intersection of Third Avenue and Geary Boulevard will get traffic lights to replace the four-way stop signs there now, Bond Yee of the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic told the Housing and Land Use Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors May 18.

Yee said the installation of the lights will cost about \$100,000, paid through San Francisco Transportation Authority funds from sales taxes. That figure includes the lights and signals themselves as well as personnel costs.

Committee Chairperson Carole Migden thanked the department for its timely reaction to the concerns of supervisors as well as residents and business owners near the intersection.

Stop signs were approved for all four directions at the intersection last year at the request of outgoing Supervisor Bill Maher. In the first month after the signs were installed in April, there were 16 accidents at the site.

Yee said the intersection is now the department's number five priority for traffic signal installation.

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Clowning around



Photo: Philip Liborio Gangi

Doug Kipping (right) made balloons for children at the Kinderfest Festival held behind Mervyn's on Geary Boulevard. The event was sponsored by the American Lung Association of San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

District wants to enlarge alternative school

Expanded role at Argonne riles parents

by Charles Augustine

Parents of students at the Argonne Alternative School are at odds with the San Francisco Unified School District over the dismantling and rebuilding of the school, which is scheduled to begin in December.

Money to replace the portable classrooms currently at Argonne

comes from Proposition A, a \$95 million bond measure passed by voters last November.

The Argonne facility was at the top of the district's list to be rebuilt. It wants to build a school on the site at 17th Avenue and Cabrillo Street that will be big enough to accommodate the needs of an ever-expanding student population. The parents

want the new building but not a larger student body.

Also at issue is the proposed relocation of the nearby preschool children's center to the elementary school site. Some parents oppose the consolidation both because it would mean additional students on the site and because it would mix preschoolers and elementary students at the facility.

However, Rafael Parra, the director of design and construction for the school district, points out that the district's plan was based on a desire to create a more familial atmosphere.

The district "wants to create more of a neighborhood feeling at the school, where a preschooler can go to school with other family members," he said.

Cost was another factor, Parra said. "Children's centers are a loss to the school district. We can't afford to have them separate. By lumping them together, we minimize the cost."

Jane Yung has two children attending Argonne, and she looks forward to the new school. But she is one of the parents who would like the elementary-school size to remain the same and the preschoolers to continue to go to the separate children's center.

Yung believes the district could better serve the neighborhoods if it listened to the people

in the communities.

"Downtown has a history of imposing its will on the communities," Yung asserts. "The district is really dictating all of this. They are not looking out for children. They are just looking at numbers."

Henry Louie concurs with Yung. He, too, believes the district is out of touch with the neighborhoods. He is particularly upset about the consolidation of the Argonne Alternative School and the Argonne Children's Center.

Fran Leadford is the director of Argonne Children's Center. While she supports the school district's position to relocate the child development program (preschool) to the Argonne school site, she acknowledges that the present site at 750 16th Ave. has the advantage of being adjacent to community gardens. "It's relaxing and great for the kids," she said.

Leadford admits that she has attended meetings where both people from the community and staff from the children's center have expressed reservations.

"Their feelings are that the existing Argonne site is relatively small, and they would like to keep it that way," Leadford said.

Yung concurs. "At the meet-

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Roosevelt Middle School students 'adopted' in unique partnership

by Valerie May

The 855 students at Roosevelt Middle School are being "adopted" this fall by Bay View Federal Savings Bank through San Francisco's Adopt-A-School Program.

Adopt-A-School is a corporate sponsorship program which includes vocational and educational support, mentoring, fund raising and community involvement activities. The bank will also offer summer job work programs, computer training and practical experience in banking.

The program, which will be implemented at Roosevelt in September, was officially launched May 18 at a Parent Teacher Student Association meeting after several months in the planning stage.

Kay Patterson, secretary to principal Charles Corsiglia, was instrumental in setting up the arrangement, bank officials said.

According to Patterson, the students will gain

hands-on experience with banking.

"A lot of children grow up not knowing how to handle money," she said. "It's an excellent program (for them)."

Patterson was able to launch the program with the help of Cynthia Hart, a vice president at the bank's headquarters, and John Kedding, former manager at the Geary Boulevard branch, now at the Market Street branch.

"The people at the bank were very enthusiastic The three of us sat down and discussed the whole plan," said Patterson.

Patterson, said Kedding, "was the heart of it, the brainchild of this whole thing. Kay was instrumental in keeping it going — my hat's off to her."

Patterson currently has students involved in light office duties at the school: answering the phone, filing, accounting, making copies. They

Continued on page 8

Happy birthday



Photo: Nick Wadler

On Friday, April 28, Mrs. Kingsbury's first grade class helped celebrate Sutro Elementary School's 100th birthday.

Police charge 3 suspects for 'chop shop' operation

Police busted an illegal "chop shop" operating out of the garage of a home on 31st Avenue.

Three men, Adam Hernandez, 19, Norman Lau, 18, and Lawrence Wong, 18, were arrested and charged with grand theft auto, possession of stolen property and running an illegal auto-stripping operation.

Police were watching the property, located at 786 31st Ave. at Cabrillo Street, when two of the men drove a stripped 1988 Honda CRX to dump it on the street.

The suspects were pulled over and arrested after the duo ran a stop sign in the car, which was minus its hood, doors and lights. A third suspect was apprehended after a two-block foot chase.

According to Richmond District police

Capt. Peter Otten, local officers are concentrating more on stopping illegal car-stripping in the District because of a recent increase of that type of activity.

Some of the most popular vehicles stolen for their parts are Hondas, Accuras, Legends and RX-7s.

"When they leave the car all that's left is a shell and an engine," Otten said.

He also said Sgts. Joe Buono and Steve Zimmerman and officers Mark Andaya and Robert Red were instrumental in making the May 11 arrests at the 31st Avenue site, and recovering numerous auto parts including fenders, bumpers and doors.

"The officers responded very rapidly to a report of suspicious activity and were able to make excellent arrests," Otten said.

University officials seek public input on Laurel Hgts. EIR

A public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the University of California at San Francisco Laurel Heights building will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 27 in the Laurel Heights auditorium, 3333 California St.

Under the plan for Laurel Heights announced two months ago, the building will become a center for the study of health policy, aging and other social and behavioral sciences.

The university proposes to relocate administrative offices and office-based instruction and research programs which do not require biomedical laboratories to the Laurel Heights building. The resulting center will bring together researchers from a wide range of disciplines to study ways to modify society or individual behaviors to bring about health promotion, better compliance with medical treatment or improved quality of life.

Copies of a preliminary environmental

impact report relating to the Laurel Heights building are available for review at the San Francisco Main Library at Larkin and McAllister streets and at the following branch libraries: Presidio Branch, 3150 Sacramento St.; Richmond Branch, 351 Ninth Ave.; Western Addition Branch, 1550 Scott St.; and the Sunset Branch, 1305 18th Ave. It may also be reviewed at the UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center, 1600 Divisadero St.

Copies of the report are available beginning June 5 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays from the UCSF Public Affairs office at Room 103 of the Laurel Heights building, 3333 California St., or at Room 566 of UCSF's Mission Center Building, 1855 Folsom St.

Comments on the document should be sent to Michelle Schaefer, UCSF Campus Planning, 1855 Folsom St., Room 566, San Francisco CA 94143-0286 by 5 p.m. on July 20.

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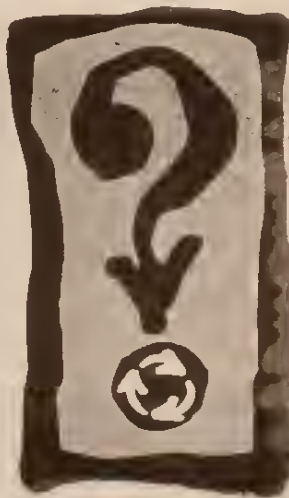
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Walking for pets



Photo: Philip Liberio Gangi

The San Francisco SPCA held its annual pet walk to benefit sick and injured homeless animals on May 13 in Golden Gate Park. Rhonda Silvester (right) walked Elvis during the stroll while her sister Adrinne (left) walked Benson.



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Despite best efforts swimming pool, fitness center may close at SFJCC

by Valerie May

In spite of efforts at fundraising and membership drives, the fitness center and pool at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center (JCC) is slated to close June 1.

According to the acting executive director of the JCC, Nancy Drapin, and a flyer distributed by management, the closure will be temporary, "with an eye to re-opening." No date was given for the reopening.

Most of the rest of the JCC programs will remain intact.

The flyer said the plan would use the input of a "professional

fitness consultant," and that it would "reorganize and revitalize" the fitness center and pool area. There was no explanation of how the reorganization or revitalization would take place.

Drapin declined to elaborate, other than to say "We're developing a plan."

The fitness center and pool had been plagued by financial problems and the threat of closure over the last several months, and several members of the community organized a grass-roots movement to raise funds in an effort keep its services available to the community.

Money was cited as the prob-

lem by Cynthia Hardin, new head of membership at the center.

The organizers had managed to raise around \$13,000 toward the deficit for the month of May, according to member Irving Zaletsky.

"Things are, to put it mildly, in flux at this time," said Hardin. "The grass-roots people have been working hard, the board of directors has been working hard. Most fundraising and new membership has been done by the grass-roots people. They've been doing a good job. They're very committed."

Continued on page 4

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City's art commission helps beautify District spots

by Joanne Chow Winship

Yes, it's true that the Richmond District is home to San Francisco's de Young Museum. But the area is bursting with art in other places as well. For example, the Richmond Police Station is the site of beautiful stained glass works, acquired for the building by the San Francisco Art Commission. Also, in a park behind the police station on Seventh Avenue stands

the Red Gothic sculpture, which was a gift to the City.

School district projects approved by the commission in the 1930s can be found at George Washington High School, at 32nd Avenue and Anza. Over the school's front entrance are three concrete medallions portraying Thomas Edison, George Washington and William Shakespeare. Behind the end zone of the school's football field are renderings of athletes in-

involved in a variety of sports.

The art commission also funds a number of lively programs at the Richmond Community Center that are absolutely free. First, there are the ongoing multicultural arts workshops that are held on Saturdays for kids in grades K-6. On Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the center is hosting the Children's Art Fair. This free annual event features hands-on arts activities for children as well as multicul-

tural singers and dancers and a clown overseeing all the festivities.

The art commission continually provides these kinds of activities and installations for the San Francisco neighborhoods. The agency was created 60 years ago when city leaders recognized the importance of the arts for drawing tourists and enhancing the lives of San Franciscans. Since then, it has integrated art into daily life through architecture,

through the Civic Art Collection as seen in parks, public squares and buildings, and through arts education in schools and neighborhoods.

The commission also supports arts organizations and cultivates opportunities for emerging artists.

The San Francisco Art Commission is proud to bring art — in all its diverse forms — to your neighborhood, as well as to people throughout our city. In particular, we invite you to explore and enjoy the public arts. If you'd like a commission representative to give a slide presentation to your community group or for a free copy of our newly published Public Art Guide, please call 252-2559.

Joanne Chow Winship is the Director of Cultural Affairs for the San Francisco Art Commission.

Team of volunteers at Alamo honored

by Laquan Norris, Alamo Elementary Librarian

When Gayle Chan was asked to take over management of the school volunteers at the Alamo elementary school back in 1975, the whole "program" was handed to her in a stationery box, with the promise of "no paperwork." Four file drawers and two assistants later, Gayle knows better.

That first year Gayle had 70 volunteers. By contrast, Alamo

currently has more than 300 volunteers who contribute more than 10,000 hours of work each year. The demand for volunteers has become so great that Gayle has been joined by fellow coordinators Lea Wong and Patty Wong.

This ever-busy trio sees to it that volunteers are provided for classrooms and for the numerous programs at Alamo, such as the library, sensory motor and the computer lab. They also staff such school events as the

Carnival, Run-A-Thon, Multicultural Festival, Sports day and the Health Fair, to name a few.

They also operate brown bag workshops and one-on-one tutoring training, and oversee high school, senior citizen, community and business partnership volunteers as well as parent volunteers.

It seems fitting that as we cel-

brate the 20th anniversary of our program here at Alamo, the San Francisco School Volunteers has chosen our team as Volunteer Coordinators of the Year.

They were honored at SFSV's Annual Recognition Day Celebration on Thursday, May 4, at St. Mary's Cathedral Conference Center on Gough Street.

Future of pool, fitness center in doubt

Continued from page 3

"Money is the hurdle. The center is short \$600,000 for the rest of the year."

Some other hurdles mentioned by some of the fitness club members included difficulties with the staff such as lack of management, leadership, and communication.

At a recent meeting, members were informed that the fitness center and pool, generally acknowledged to be in need of upkeep, would be refurbished and cleaned up, although they were not told how or when.

"Since the United Jewish Community Centers disbanded and passed on responsibilities to each center, the centers don't know what to do with the new responsibilities," said one organizer.

"Healthy management of the center has not taken place yet," said Zaletsky.

"There are still a lot of obsta-

cles."

A core group of about 25 of the organizers say they "plan to formalize ourselves and continue our work, stay involved with the new operating structure and the board."

The group has retained an attorney to help them in negotiations with management.

Hardin stresses that many aspects of the SFJCC will not be cut. "The emigré services have remained intact, as have the day care, senior center, and summer day care. The JCC is still up and running."

"There are still soccer and basketball teams for youths. Many adult classes have been cut, but there are still some Jewish programs, classes relating to Jewish issues, and some adult programs," she added.

"People between the ages of 15 and 65 will be out of the cycle of things at the SFJCC," said member Mars Breslow.

In a joint letter to the SFJCC

board, state Senators Milton Marks and Quentin Kopp urged the board to try to keep the fitness center and pool open.

The letter called the circa-1932 building at 3200 California St. a "living embodiment of San Francisco's unique and diverse cultural heritage," and "landmark both for the Jewish community and for San Francisco as a whole."

The senators expressed fear that "closing these facilities will ultimately lead to the closing of the entire Center."

A committee of members, Friends of the SFJCC, are working with the board of directors to keep the facility open.

They are trying to raise funds to cover the operating costs "and to revitalize our center as a self-sustaining and fiscally sound institution for another 62 years," according to the committee's statement of goals.

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Waste basket(s) emptied

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Bonded & Insured.



A team from Washington High School (left photo), who taught fellow students about static electricity, won first prize of \$1,000 in the eighth annual UCSF-sponsored Science and Health Education Partnership Lesson Plan Contest. The awards ceremony took place at UCSF on April 18. From left to right, UCSF contest coordinators Liesl Chatman and Tracy Stevens, and student winners Eric Li, Ying Shu Chen, Wilson Wong, Wai Yan Chan and Eric Yip. (Right photo) A team

Local students garner science lessons awards



UCSF photos by Karen Prouss

from Roosevelt Middle School, who taught fellow students about light and the human eye, won third prize of \$250 in the eighth annual UCSF-sponsored Science and Health Education Partnership Lesson Plan Contest. From left to right, executive director of the UCSF program Liesl Chatman, teacher Ramona Muniz, students Susan Tche and Qiu Ming Chen, and Helen Doyle, UCSF contest coordinator.

'Days of Russian' celebration slated for June 6-12

The Consulate General of the Russian Federation presents "Days of Russia," a cultural celebration with free entertainment, June 6 - 12 in San Francisco.

The main event, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Union Square coincides with Russian National Day,

Saturday, June 10. After the opening ceremony, the public will see free performances by dance companies from Russia and the City and renowned Russian opera singers. Food, souvenirs and literature on Russian culture and history will

be available.

Traditional Russian handicrafts such as Khokhloma wares, antique bone carvings, Gorodets painting, weaving and embroidery are on display June 6 to 9 at the Bowles/Sorokko Gallery, 765 Beach St.

The Russian Orthodox Film Festival runs June 6 to 12 from 4 to 9 p.m. at St. Nicholas Cathedral, 2005 15th St. Rare documentaries chronicle the Russian Orthodox Church's role in the spiritual revival of Russia

since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

For more information on events call Sergei Gritsai or Nikolai Vinogradov of the Russian Consulate General at 929-1035.

New plan in works for Argonne school

Continued from page 1

ings, parents were saying 'You're trying to make us big,'" she said.

However, Parra points out the Argonne site was always intended to accommodate more students than the 368 that it currently has.

There were as many as 440 students attending school in the original brick building which was torn down in 1973 he said.

The size of the current school was not based on the demographics of the neighborhood but simply on the number of portable buildings that could be placed at the site, Parra explained.

"We put that number of portables in there because we couldn't rebuild (neighborhood residents)

a school at the time which would accommodate 440 students," he said.

"Now, finally 20 years later we've got the money to build their school, and we're avoiding building a school that is obsolete," he added.

The district has always planned to construct a building that would serve preschool and elementary children, but when parents and staff expressed concern that the preschool would have too many children, the district responded with a new plan that reduced projected enrollment, Parra said.

To provide more playground space, the main school building will be built to three stories, allowing more yard space for the children. Separate playtimes and

lunch periods for the two groups is also under consideration.

People have to see the bigger picture, what the need will be 20 years from now, Parra believes. "It's not like building your own home. We're designing a school," he said.

Reprinted from The City Voice.

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Robbery in a Commercial Establishment, Possible Gun Used, May 12, 5:29 p.m., 2500 block of Post Street

The store clerk was behind the cash register when a man entered through the front door and asked questions about various items.

The man then placed his right hand inside his coat, simulating that he had a weapon, and said, "Give me all the money and I won't hurt you."

The clerk gave him \$350 cash and a \$59.68 personal check. As the suspect exited, a second witness came out of the store's rear room.

The suspect said to him, "Be cool man and nobody will get hurt." He then fled on foot and the second witness followed but lost him.

Upon seeing two officers who responded to the robbery call, the man ducked into a driveway at the above location. As he matched the suspect's description and was "acting furtively" he was detained and handcuffed.

In a pat search for weapons one of the officers found a large wad of currency wrapped in a check in the suspect's shirt pocket.

The store clerk positively identified the suspect as the man who had taken the money.

While the suspect was being placed in the patrol car, an officer pat his legs and felt a long bulge in a sock. The officer removed a clear plastic bag with four sy-

ringes, one spoon wrapped in a paper towel and small amount of a tar-like substance wrapped in cellophane. The suspect, the money and these items on him were booked.

Loiters Around Public Toilet at School, May 12, 1:55 p.m., 2100 block Fulton Street

A woman was in the restroom when the suspect, a juvenile, ran into the stall next to hers and looked at her from underneath the divider. He began to crawl into her stall and say low, threatening words she could not make out. The victim yelled at him to go away and then he ran out of the restroom.

A school public safety officer was responding to a report from a student that a male was going in and out of the women's restroom when he saw the suspect run out of it.

The victim positively identified the suspect as the male who violated her privacy. She signed a citizen's arrest and the suspect was cited by police.

The suspect was released to his mother, who was advised to contact his probation officer. The suspect was reportedly seen on campus women's restrooms

twice within the six days before this event, but was gone before police arrived.

Malicious Mischief/Graffiti, May 12, 9:05 p.m., 200 block of 12th Avenue

The officer responded to a report that seven juveniles were defacing, "tagging" school doors and watched them from 15 feet away.

The suspects noticed him when he was five feet away from them and then started to hide their markers by throwing them onto the ground and into nearby bushes.

The suspects were arrested and their markers were found and booked.

Six of the suspects were released to their parents and one was sent to and booked at the Youth Guidance Center because his parent was unwilling to accept custody.

Auto Burglary, Parole Hold, May 7, 8:26 p.m., 6000 block of Fulton Street

The victim was closing the shades of his house when he noticed the suspect inside his red 1985 Volkswagen, which he parked and locked earlier that evening. The victim and his brother went outside and held on to the suspect while the sister dialed 911.

The victim saw that the car's ashtray was open and empty but had been closed and filled with coins and a blank key earlier. Police found \$5.15 in coins and the blank key in the suspect's pants pocket.

The victim also said that the pry marks on the car door handles were new. In the suspect's same pants pocket police found a screwdriver that could have made

these marks.

The suspect was then arrested and booked. The suspect had been on parole for burglary and the Department of Corrections approved a parole hold on him later that night.

Felony Vandalism/Graffiti, May 19, 11:45 p.m., to May 20, 12:02 a.m., 4100 block of Balboa Street

Two plainclothes officers in an unmarked vehicle saw four male juveniles looking at a garage door on the 4100 block of Cabrillo Street.

As the suspects walked northbound on 43rd Avenue, one of the officers saw that the garage door and part of the fence had been defaced with a rust-colored paint. Suspecting they were involved in malicious mischief, the officer followed them on Balboa Street on foot.

One suspect proceeded to spray paint with rust and blue logos the sidewalk and a light post on the 4200 block of Balboa, light posts on the 4100 block of Balboa, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Balboa and 42nd Avenue, and on the 4000 block of Balboa.

He also vandalized the ad surface and structures frame of the billboard at the southwest corner of the intersection of 41st Avenue and Balboa Street.

The suspects then headed to the bus stop at the southwest corner of the intersection of Balboa and 40th Avenue, where the above suspect put the two blue and rust spray cans on the sidewalk.

The officer in the car then picked up the officer on foot, who then displayed a police badge to the suspects. The above suspect immediately removed his rubber gloves and dropped them to the ground.

The suspects were detained, and the first suspect said he was solely responsible for the acts of vandalism.

"I know that spray painting city property and private property is against the law, but I did it anyways," he wrote in a statement. He was sent to the Youth

Guidance Center.

As the officer on foot did not witness the other three suspects commit acts of vandalism, they were released to their parents.

Theft of Recyclable Materials, May 23, reported at 12:03 a.m., 300 block of 11th Avenue

An officer on patrol saw a white 1985 Toyota pickup with a built-up sider double-parked. As he approached it he saw two suspects placing objects from blue recycling containers in the back of the truck, which they said belonged to a friend.

As the suspects spoke little English, another officer was called on the scene to translate.

The second suspect said he had driven the truck, but could not produce identification. The first suspect produced a check cashing card.

Both were then transported to the police station, where the first suspect was cited and released. The second suspect was booked for lacking ID and was not cited and released until the other suspect returned with ID for him.

The truck was cited and towed because it had no licensed driver to take charge of it. During the tow inventory, the first officer saw a blue San Francisco Curbside Recycling bin with a bottle inside. The bin was underneath a stack of cardboard in the truck bed.

Aggravated Battery, Probation Violation, May 5, 7:20 p.m., 500 block of Balboa Street

When the suspect entered the establishment, the victim asked if he could help him, but the suspect pushed him, causing him to fall on a table and chairs.

After the suspect left the establishment, its staff dialed 911 and described the suspect, who an officer saw on the 400 block of Balboa Street and detained.

The victim was taken to where the suspect was detained and positively identified him as his attacker.

The victim complained of right arm and shoulder pains, but refused medical treatment for a later time.

A probation hold was placed on the suspect, who is on felony probation in Alameda County and has at least 10 prior arrests for assault.

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'Distinguished service'



Sen. Milton Marks (right) congratulates House of Bagels owner Sid Chassey on his certificate of recognition award he received for distinguished service to the city of San Francisco. Chassey has been in the Richmond District for 32 years. David Heller, president of the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants Association and proprietor of The Beauty Network, is pictured in the center.

Pearl Jam concert slated for June in Park

Pearl Jam's June 24 concert at the Polo Fields is scheduled to go on without contest, according to concert promoters.

According to Lucinda Geller at Bill Graham Presents, there is no major opposition to the 50,000 ticket sold-out show.

"There's been several events in the park and we haven't had any problems," she said.

Clean-up, maintenance, and set-up will be the responsibility of BGP, according to Joel Robinson, Superintendent of the SF Recreation and Park Department.

"There will be a \$10,000 to \$15,000 performance bond," said Robinson, who explained that money will be used by the SF recreation and park department to pay for any damages to the park. "Also, we don't do any of the clean-up, they have made

their own arrangements."

The \$50,000 permit to use the Polo Fields has not been issued yet. The issue is slated to go before a committee of the SF Recreation and Park Commission June 6 and before the full commission June 15. The Richmond Police Station has not decided how to handle traffic in the area, according to Richmond District police officer Jill Connelly, who is in charge of permits.

Other recent events at the Polo Fields have included the Bay to Breakers, WOMAD and the largest in recent times, the Bill Graham Memorial Concert, which drew an about 350,000.

Damage from that concert, which closed parts of the park for a month, included compaction of soil, crushed gopher burrows and damaged irrigation pipes and sprinkler heads from cars.

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Richmond gets new Goodwill donation site

A new Goodwill donation center has recently opened in the Lick Super parking lot at 350 Seventh Ave. in the Richmond District.

The center, between Clement Street and Geary Boulevard, is open daily 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and closed for lunch 12:30 to 1 p.m.

"I'm delighted to have Goodwill's donation center on our property," said Richard Moresco, Lick Super owner. "It adds convenience, as well as value, to our shoppers and, at the same time, helps Goodwill to

achieve their mission.

"We're proud to be part of a team which helps people with disabilities and disadvantaged conditions become more employable."

The donations contributed at the center will help employ and train more than 600 people per year, he added.

"Clothing donations should be clean and in good condition. Kitchen and household items and office equipment should be in working order. For furniture donations which may require pick-up, call (800) 550-1560.

Free health fair at VA

The San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center will host a Community Health Fair Saturday, June 3, to provide the public with health information and basic medical screening.

Blood pressure, lung functions, foot problems, dental health and vision will be checked. Other areas of focus include diabetes, blood vessel disease, cancer, mental health, nutri-

tion, HIV disease and healthy aging.

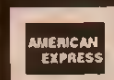
Events are free but there will be a nominal charge for a blood work-up. The fair will be held 8 a.m. to noon at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building 7, at 4150 Clement St. and 42nd Avenue. The 38 Geary bus goes to the front door. Call 750-2250 for more information.

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Bank 'adopts' Roosevelt

Continued from page 1

work in the office for one period each day and get graded for it.

"They do a very good job," Patterson said.

She now has a "monitor" program in the school's office, with three or four students handling accounting duties. The kids "love it."

"It's different, it's neat to them," she said. "They like it, and yet they're learning."

Patterson plans to meet in July with bank vice president Hart and the president of Bay View Savings, Jim Tecca, to discuss plans for an auction in October.

"We all have wonderful ideas, and we're all going to work together," she said. "We're looking for donations and volunteer involvement."

According to Kedding, "Roosevelt is the pilot. This is a new program as far as the Adopt-A-School Program is concerned. We're going to learn a lot from Roosevelt."

Logistics have "basically been ironed out" and will be easier in the future, he said.

Robert Hogan, current manager of the Geary Boulevard branch of Bay View, notes that writing

the proposal has been the biggest logistical hurdle to date.

Bay View will oversee a Bank at School Program at Roosevelt, in which students will have positions as bank managers, tellers and sales associates. They will be chosen in an interview process through school and bank representatives, as though they were applying for a job in the real world.

The students will learn marketing strategies and how to manage money, including the opening of new accounts and implementing of sales. The school bank will have the rest of the student body as potential customers.

Bay View will also be sponsoring special events like an essay writing contest asking students to name their favorite teacher. The bank will donate cash prizes to the winning students and their teachers.

So far, the bank has donated a fax machine, and as its computer system gets upgraded and each branch is outfitted with new IBMs, the old computers will be donated to the schools, along with printers, manuals and training classes.

The Adopt-A-School Program was started in 1987 at the request



Photo: Philip Liborio Gangi

Bay View Federal Bank recently adopted Roosevelt Middle School. Standing in front of Roosevelt School as students do a grounds clean-up are (left to right) Roosevelt principal Charles Corsiglia, secretary to the principal Kay Patterson, student Qui Ming Chen, 12, and Bay View Geary Boulevard branch bank manager Robert Hogan.

of then-superintendent of schools Ramon Cortines, according to Sandra Tracy of San Francisco School Volunteers (SFSV). Cortines thought that the thriving San Francisco business community should have more involvement with the schools.

There are about 69 schools currently involved with the program, said Tracy, and 30 more schools in the City are on a waiting list for a corporate sponsor.

The program has been very successful, she said.

"Businesses stay with it for the long term," she said. "There are benefits for the teachers, students and the businesses."

The company experiences an employee morale-boosting effect,

as well as reaping the awards from the increased community involvement. The program takes about two weeks to get up and running, she said, although sometimes the planning takes a while longer.

Businesses interested in the program should contact Candice Claussen of SFSV at 274-0250.

In addition to Roosevelt, Bay View also has plans to begin sponsoring Caesar Chavez Elementary School in the Mission District and South City High School this fall.

Hogan said the bank asks the schools for a wish list — things like repairs to the building, supplies or gym equipment. So far, the bank has donated soccer and

basketballs for the gym class at Caesar Chavez.

In the long term, Hogan says, "This involvement establishes us in the community... We're here because of our customers. We're involved in the community. This is a program that goes on indefinitely."

"We pick schools close to our branches. This is easy as far as communication — the school and the branch are part of the same community, and there are no bus trips for the students."

Hogan praised the response at Roosevelt. "They're real pleased that we're doing this, very enthusiastic. Particularly, the parents were very upbeat. My hope is that a lot of other businesses will get involved in the schools."

Academy of Sciences has summer classes for youth

The California Academy of Sciences' Junior Academy offers more than 80 hands-on science classes, workshops and field trips for children ages 6 to 16 this summer.

Classes are offered in biology, geology, chemistry, technology, marine biology, archeology and arts and crafts. Instructors include academy scientists, educa-

tors, artists and graduate students.

Classes in the first session, July 10-28, meet two to three times a week for one to one-and-a-half hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The second session, Aug. 7-18, consists of half-day workshops that meet for three hours starting at 9 a.m.

Continued on page 14

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Faith, family helps keep Richmond centenarian going

by Caroline Chung

"I can't remember much, but what I do know is that I've spent my life raising my kids and serving the Lord."

Mattie Lewis was either 101 or 102 years old March 16 and looks a radiant 80. She is confined to a wheelchair and wears a knit brown and pink blanket over her lap.

Lewis wears two necklaces, glasses and "almost a different hat every day," according to one of the personnel at the Ruth Ann Rosenberg Adult Day Health Center. She is wearing a hot pink straw hat with a yellow band today.

The mother of six children, one son and five daughters, Lewis becomes passionate and alive when talking about them.

"I raised them while working in Burlingame. I cooked for a lady. I'm the best cook around. I bought a home and a car and never missed one payment, not one payment," she said.

GG Park stables contract may be awarded in June

The Recreation and Park Commission selects the concessions operator and approves the award of lease and construction plan for the Golden Gate Park Stables at its June 15 meeting.

The decisions will be made immediately after the 2 p.m. roll call at the Golden Gate Park Senior Center, 6101 Fulton St. at 37th Avenue. The meeting had been rescheduled from May 25.

Later in the meeting the commission will approve an increase of \$50,000 to the contract with Royston Hanamoto Alley and

Prevent Blindness urges better face protection

More than 40,000 eye injuries occur in sports and recreational activities each year, at least half of them to children.

Among all sports, basketball is now the leading cause of sports eye injuries, followed by baseball, swimming and various pool sports.

Prevent Blindness Northern



Photo: Jennifer Zdon

Mattie Lewis recently celebrated her 101st or 102nd birthday with friends at the UCSF Mt. Zion Center for the Aging. Lewis is convinced that she is actually 106 years old.

Lewis has attended the Ruth Ann Rosenberg Adult Day Health Center at Geary and

Arguello boulevards for the past 15 to 16 years. The center is one of several Mount Zion Health System programs in the City.

"This program helps people with disabilities or physical illnesses to live independently," according to the flyer for Mount Zion's Institute on Aging. "Nursing, rehabilitation and social work services are interwoven with therapeutic recreation and personal care to foster well-being in a caring environment."

Abey to prepare the Golden Gate Park Master Plan. The contract date will be extended to Aug. 31, 1996.

The commission is also expected to approve a Pearl Jam concert to be held Saturday, June 24, 1-5 p.m. in the Polo Field. Also considered will be the event's setup and breakdown from Monday, June 19, to Tuesday, June 27, needed road closures, permit fee and fencing plan.

For more information call the commission office at 666-7064.

Available from two to five days a week, the program includes transportation and noon meals."

A native of Texas, Lewis attends the center five days a week. Lewis suffered a broken hip several years ago and while walking with a cane, fell and broke her other hip. In the last fall, she also hit her head and has lost some memory capabilities. When asked who her favorite president was or what moment in history stands out the most, she is unable to answer.

Still a gregarious and passionate woman, Lewis has many friends who come to visit her. A recent pleasant surprise for her was that her grandson, Skipper, whom she raised, came to visit for Mother's Day. "That was a very nice visit, yes Lord, it was nice."

Lewis is a woman of her word and is a devout Baptist. As a charter member of the Macedonia Baptist Church, she has attended every Sunday service for the past 50 years. Now, she is a Mother of the Church, a group with very high standing in Baptist churches.

"Mothers of the Church wear all white, white gloves and white dresses and they sit in the front pew — it's a place of very high distinction," adds Marty Murchison, recreation therapist at the center.

If Lewis sounds active, she is.

"I like going out, coming here (to the center)." She gets Waiters on Wheels for dinner and lives with a caretaker who stays overnight with her. One of her daughters, Francis, lives in Los Angeles and helps her handle financial matters.

Lewis says of her most recent birthday, "I don't feel much different."

Mount Zion also offers an Alzheimer's Day Center, Rehabilitation Services, the L'Chaim Senior Center, and home help through its LifeLine, Senior Information Line, Artworks, Linkages, ElderPlan and MSSP programs.

It also offers Help for Working Caregivers, Elder Abuse Prevention, and its Speakers' Bureau and Geriatric Assessment programs. For additional information on these programs call 750-4130.

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This summer the Traffic Division of the San Francisco Police Department will launch Operation SafePed in the Richmond District.

A two-phase, education-based effort, the program's goal is to decrease the incidence of pedestrian/vehicle collisions, bolster pedestrian confidence in their ability to safely cross the streets in the district, and to increase the many varied pleasures to be had in strolling through the local neighborhoods and shopping areas.

In the May issue of the *Richmond ReView* I discussed some of the California State Vehicle Code laws that describe some of the rights and duties that pedestrians have when walking on or across our roadways. This month I would like to speak to the motorists of the district and possibly remind them of their lawful obligations in respect to sharing the streets with pedestrians. As I said in the previous article, the harmonious use of our streets by both pedestrians and motorists is dependent on the respect and cooperation that both classes of users demonstrate toward each other.

Section 21950a CVC (California Vehicle Code): This law requires motorists to yield

the right-of-way to any pedestrian lawfully crossing the street with a crosswalk. It is important to note that a "crosswalk" can be either marked or unmarked. A marked crosswalk is designated with lines that are painted onto the roadway. Occasionally a sign will also be posted advising motorists that they are approaching a designated pedestrian crossing.

An unmarked crosswalk is defined as being "within the prolongation ... of the boundary lines of sidewalks at (an) intersection." In other words — even if there are no lines painted across the roadway — any person walking across the street near an intersection, and in an area where crosswalk lines might normally be found, is deemed to be walking in a crosswalk, and motorists must generally yield to them.

It might also be good to discuss the difference between white and yellow painted crosswalk lines. Yellow crosswalk lines always designate a school crossing. Greater care and attention should always be exercised by a driver passing by such areas during school hours. Of course,

Operation SafePed set for Richmond debut

Officer Ray Shine

many school crossings are controlled by adult crossing guards, and it is illegal for a motorist to ignore or disobey any lawful direction given by a crossing guard.

Section 21951 CVC: This section prohibits a motorist from overtaking or driving past other vehicles that are stopped at a crosswalk for a pedestrian. This law is most frequently violated at the crosswalks along the wider boulevards and streets of the district, particularly where there are multiple lanes of traffic going in the same direction. It would be especially prudent for a motorist to stop in such an instance if the other vehicles are large and prevent the driver approaching from the rear from properly seeing who or what might be causing those vehicles to be stopped in the first place. Often it might be a small child who, upon seeing several lanes of traffic stopped for him, may suddenly run across the street, and directly into the path of that overtaking vehicle.

Section 21453a CVC: This is the law that requires a motorist to stop his or her vehicle at a red signal light. The specific thing to note about this section is that it requires that the vehicle be stopped at the first crosswalk line, and that none of the vehicle should encroach into the designated crosswalk space.

This requirement is commonly violated. Many drivers fail to stop at the limit line — the crosswalk — and nose their vehicle either partly or all the way through

the crosswalk zone. This, in turn, forces the pedestrians crossing on a green light to walk around the encroaching vehicle, very often

right out into the intersection, in order to get around the encroaching vehicle.

Section 21453b CVC: This section prohibits a motorist from making a right turn on a red signal light without first yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Remember, a car must come to a stop before entering the crosswalk, and may not make the turn until all approaching pedestrians are yielded to.

Many pedestrians are hit by turning vehicles when this section is not abided by. Often a motorist — intent on turning right and merging into traffic — will edge forward into the crosswalk while looking off to their left at the same time. Their attention thus fixed on the approaching traffic, they fail to see the pedestrian stepping into the street just as they make the turn. The result might be an accident and, usually, an injured pedestrian.

Section 21952 CVC: This section gives a clear right-of-way to any pedestrian walking on a sidewalk, and any motorist who is driving over or on the same section of sidewalk must always

Continued on back page

Geary Blvd. stop sign

Continued from page 1

The intersection of Market and Spear streets is on top of the department's list, followed by Claremont Boulevard and Portola Drive, Alemany Boulevard and Seneca Avenue, Conkling Street

and Silver Avenue and finally the intersection of Third Avenue and Geary Boulevard.

The intersection will receive greater attention from the police as well, as a traffic enforcement programs develops in the coming months.



Photo: Philip Libono Gangi

The stop sign at Third Avenue and Geary Boulevard.

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For the past 24 years, Argonne School has thrived and garnered a solid reputation as a strong and successful school community of staff, students and parents in our current minimal, bungalow buildings. Our success is due in large part to our moderate size, our dedicated staff and our diverse school population that we attract from throughout the city. We are a hard-working, working-class alternative school of 340 students in the city's Richmond District. Consistently over the years, we have asked for a new or improved permanent facility. Last June, our school community enthusiastically supported the passage of Prop. A to rebuild Argonne School with donations and get-out-the-vote efforts.

After Prop. A's passage, our school community has patiently and cooperatively participated in the district's so-called "New Building Planning Process" with less than satisfactory results. Last fall, a school district planner met with us for the first time to give us a broad overview of the new building planning process. At that time we were told that our school would expand to include at least six more classrooms (approximately 180 students) and that a preschool would also be added. There was no mention of the size of the preschool enrollment. Many parents expressed the hope that if our school were to increase in enrollment size that we expand to a kindergarten through eighth grade program rather than to increase our current kindergarten through fifth

grade. After that meeting, our school formed a "New Buildings & Grounds Committee," composed of our principal, two teachers and two parents. This committee would herein represent our school community concerns at future planning meetings.

Those planning meetings took place in January and February. Architects were interviewed and selected. Rough blueprints began to take shape and finite space began to be defined. In late April the second community meeting was held. At this meeting, we were introduced to a consulting firm hired by the school district to manage the building project. Also, at this meeting, the architects told our school community that the district planners had instructed them to design a kindergarten to fifth grade school with 18 classrooms to accommodate 540 students — and to design a 4,200 square foot preschool to accommodate 100 children (down from the original 200 capacity earlier proposed). This would increase our school by an additional 280 children and at least 20 staff members. At this time, we began to question the sensibility of nearly doubling the current school population given our limited, half-block landscape at 17th Avenue and Cabrillo. Also at this meeting, many questions and concerns went unanswered because no one from the district was present — just the consultants, the architects and 50 folks from the Argonne community.

A week later, a third community meeting was held on May 3. A school district planner repeated what the architects had told us the week earlier, that Argonne School was to be rebuilt to accommodate 540 neighborhood students and 100 preschoolers. He also stated that the Argonne Nursery School located at the Argonne Gardens site on 16th Avenue and Cabrillo would be closed and the property sold. He apologized that our school community was not part of the expansion planning process. He assured us that the school district's preschools were "losing the district a lot of money" and that consolidating them would be more economical for the district.

Don't cut us out of the planning process

Jane M. Yung

He, the expert, had the larger picture in mind. Many of us left that meeting feeling powerless and resigned to accept everything the planner had told us. The Argonne School he described and envisioned was a big, anonymous kid mill — not the learning environment that we currently cherish with our diverse student body and active, involved parents that we draw from throughout the city as an alternative school. He described a future Argonne School that I would seriously not consider enrolling my preschool daughter in.

In the immediate days following the meeting, parents and staff began talking with School Board members and other district staff. To our surprise, at least three board members were unaware that the district planners were planning nearly to double Argonne School's student capacity. They also were unaware that the Argonne Nursery was being consolidated into the new building. They stated that they were not aware of any state or city mandate to consolidate preschools into new school buildings, as the school planner had led us to believe. I personally spoke with the district's budget director about the money loss of the district's preschools. He stated that yearly it costs the district an additional \$3 million to run the Children's Centers. This figure is solely based on the additional staffing it takes to care for preschoolers. More staff must be hired at the centers because of the higher teacher to student ratio. He stated that there was no specific financial loss report for the Argonne Nursery. He further stated that the financial savings

would not be very significant by consolidating the Argonne Nursery into the new Argonne School building — but that perhaps it might cut down on custodian costs.

A "different" and larger picture was beginning to unravel to our school community. That picture, in my opinion, revealed SF school district planners with shortsighted, rash solutions to building learning environments for the children of today and the decades to come. Do the many citizens of San Francisco who voted for building and repairing city schools want three-story 600+ elementary schools built today in residential neighborhoods? Are moderately-sized elementary schools (350–450 students) a relic of the 20th century? Do the Richmond District residents want the school district to sell the open garden space and close the adjacent Argonne Nursery? Are community gardens a relic of the 20th century, too? Are preschoolers entitled to their own yard space that is accessible at all times? In the long run, what do the citizens of San Francisco gain by nearly doubling the enrollment size of a successful school community (to be served by the current administrative staff of one principal and one secretary), closing down a self-contained, separate nursery

school and selling the property along with open community garden space? Can we plan and build moderately-sized learning environments? Can we foster quality vs. quantity in our endeavors? Must San Francisco's 21st century schools become big, impersonal institutions?

At present, our school community waits the architectural schematic drawings of the New Building plans. They were to be presented at a 3:30 p.m. meeting on Monday, May 15. However, at 2 p.m. that day, the meeting was cancelled with little explanation. The next day, the architects told us that the district cancelled the meeting because there were no drawings to present. The architects could not design a structure to accommodate the addition of a preschool for 100 children! Instead, the architects were told to go back to their drawing boards and redesign for a preschool to accommodate 50 children. The latest news today has upped the figure to 75 children.

And so our school community waits to see the schematic drawings of a new school at 17th Avenue and Cabrillo. Perhaps it will be a revelation, perhaps not. If not, I hope all San Franciscans who voted for Prop. A will join our school community in simply accepting nothing less than the very best possible learning environments for children.

Jane M. Yung is a parent of youth attending Argonne.

Scholarships awarded to City seniors

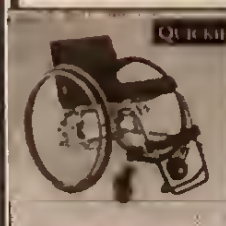
The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to five 1995 San Francisco high school seniors.

According to scholarship committee chair Andrea Pujolar, the winners are Melissa Chan and Kim Trieu of Galileo High School, Kimmy Jong of Lowell High School, Betty Lok of the International Studies Academy and Jonathan Ng of Burton High School.

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As real estate prices have decreased from the peak of the market in 1989, many property owners are finding themselves in a position where they owe more on the property than it's worth. Then if they have to move for any reason such as a job transfer, divorce or just needing a larger home, they feel trapped because in a conventional sale, they would have to bring money into escrow to close the transaction.

Many people who purchased or refinanced homes from 1988 to 1992 are finding themselves in this situation because prices have decreased approximately 20 to 25 percent during this period. Add to that selling expenses of approximately seven percent, those people who absolutely need to move find themselves in a very unpleasant situation.

Recent sales statistics show that about 38 percent of the current sales are being sold for less than what the properties were purchased at. Another interesting statistic is that about 24 percent of the homes being sold are selling at less than the loans owed on the homes. What do the owners do then? Do they have to make up the difference to the banks or will they forever have to pay the banks from their wages?



Ways to deal in a depressed market

John M. Lee

The answer, interestingly enough, is "no"! The sellers can sell the property for less than what they owe to the bank and request the bank to accept a short payoff or a smaller amount than what is currently owed. This is known in the real estate industry as a short sale.

The decline in property values has caused a major problem for the banks where currently most banks will have a short sales department or a loss mitigation department staffed to respond to these specific requests. They will have the authorization to negotiate and settle these matters to the best of everyone's interest.

The short sale process can start by either the owner or the owner's real estate agent contacting the bank and requesting an approval for a short sale. The bank will send a short-sale package to be completed by the owner. Typically, the bank will ask for a financial statement, the last two years' tax returns, bank statements, paycheck stubs and the last two years' W-2s, the same documents as when the borrowers apply for a loan with the bank.

In addition, the bank will ask for a hardship letter documenting why the seller wants a short sale, and a real estate broker's price opinion

on the current property value. Based on the information provided, the bank will make a decision either to accept or deny a short payoff.

The banks have an extra incentive to work with the sellers to come to a compromise on the problem. They have come to the realization that if they do not deal with the problem, the seller can walk away, and that they will have to deal with the problem further down the road.

Foreclosure typically takes about six to seven months to complete. During that time period, usually no mortgages are paid, no property taxes are paid, the property generally will not be maintained, and after foreclosure, the lender will have to spend extra money taking care of these problems.

Chances are that prices are not going to change much during these next six to seven months, so that if the sales price is the same now as six months from now and with less headaches, the banks have a strong incentive to accept a short sale. However, the banks will not tell you that up front because they are under governmental scrutiny to do whatever they can to recover the amount owed on the property.

From my experience, though, the banks have recognized that they indeed have a major problem and that they are more than willing to negotiate a short sale as long as it is a legitimate one.

In doing a short sale, there are some tax consequences for the seller. The amount of debt to be forgiven by the lender will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service on a 1099 form, which

means that it will count as ordinary income to the seller and that he will have to pay income taxes on that amount.

In the case of a refinance and if the basis of the property is low, there might be capital gains tax involved also. However, if the property were to go into foreclosure and the property gets sold at a trustee sale, the tax consequences can even be worse.

If the short sale involves a personal residence, the bad news is that the loss is not tax deductible and the debt forgiveness is treated as ordinary income. However, there might be some upcoming good news as Congress is trying to pass a bill making these losses tax deductible as capital losses. In terms of minimizing these tax

implications, there are limited strategies and a good accountant or tax attorney can discuss the issues with you.

Therefore, if you are in the position where you have to sell and your loan plus the closing costs are higher than the property value, there is a solution.

However, you will need to take a proactive approach to solve the problem by contacting your bank or a real estate agent specializing in the area of short sales.

John M. Lee is the top-selling broker for Prudential California Realty in San Francisco for 1994. If you have any questions regarding real estate, call him at 776-9500 x267.

'Gift of life'



Photo: J. Michael Staub

Nurse Vicky Padua (right) checks the blood pressure of donor Debbie Nelson just before drawing blood from her left arm during a blood drive held at the Richmond District YMCA on Wednesday, May 17.



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Geary/Commonwealth (N/W corner)

Geary/4th Ave. (Cala Foods)

Geary/18th Ave. (N/W corner)

Geary/20th Ave. (S/E corner)

Geary/27th Ave. (Cala Foods)

OTHER LOCATIONS

Laurel Village (Cal Mart)

Cabrillo/7th Ave. (Safeway)

Balboa/37th Ave. (S/W corner)

Cabrillo/La Playa (S/E corner)

Early car barn



Photo courtesy of Greg Gaar collection

This photo was taken in the late 1920's and shows the 'A' streetcar line, which ran by a streetcar 'barn' at the corner of Geary Boulevard and Masonic Avenue.

Our unusual spring rain could be followed by the earliest allergy season in years, or by the worst — only time will tell whether the rain has increased the pollen in the air or washed it away. But if you have allergies, you will know when "allergy season" begins. As the grass pollen begins to bloom, your nose will get runny, itchy or clogged, or your eyes or throat will begin to itch or burn. If allergies affect your lungs (asthma is one example), it may be harder for you to breathe.

Schuman Tam, MD

Your doctor can also prescribe the newest antihistamines that do not make you sleep (Seldane, Hismanal and Claratin). A doctor can also prescribe a steroid nose spray that shrinks swollen tissues with minimal side-effects.

If your allergy symptoms worsen or begin to interfere with work or sleep, you may want to see an allergist for an evaluation. You and the allergist can, then, make a joint decision about what to do to improve your situation.

Allergy desensitization shots are the only known scientific way to permanently cure hay fever and some other allergies. You get small amounts of the allergen (what makes you allergic) in a series of shots to "desensitize" your body so that you do not

have an allergic response. Desensitization has an 80 to 90 percent success rate for people with hay fever, making it possible for many to eliminate allergy medications altogether. New "peptide-based" desensitization shots now being tested should further improve results.

Many patients with hay fever show signs of asthma, which is an allergic reaction in your lungs that makes it difficult to breathe. If you have asthma, you should be under a doctor's care so that you can learn how to avoid asthma attacks and what to do when they occur.

Schuman Tam, MD, FACP, FACAAL, is chief of the Allergy Section at St. Mary's Medical Center, Board-certified in allergy/immunology and internal medicine, Tam practices in San Francisco.

Cameron Ventures has summer retreats for Asian 1st-8th graders

Cameron Ventures offers a rewarding six-week summer program of Bay Area retreats for Asian-American first- through eighth-graders June 26-Aug. 11.

The elementary school program teaches appreciation of the outdoors and how to get along with other children. The middle school program includes sports tournaments, cookouts, games, crafts, fishing and retreats to

places such as a Muir Woods

The two drop-off and pick-up sites are the Chinatown Site, 920 Sacramento St., and the Richmond Site, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church at 417 30th Ave. and Geary Boulevard. Program time is 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with extended care starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m.

Cost includes complete supervision, extended care hours, ac-

tivities, materials, transportation, accidents and weekly cookout, and financial aid is available. Lunch is not provided except for the weekly cookout.

Cost per child is \$60 per week or \$300 for six weeks. Each additional sibling may enroll for \$200 for six weeks.

Register by 5 p.m. June 16. For more information call 781-0401.

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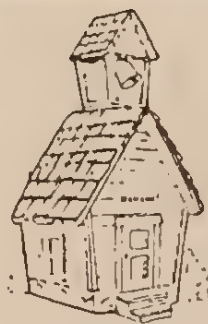
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From Where I Sit

Mayor Frank Jordan

At a time when the state and federal governments continue to cut San Francisco's General Fund support, I am committed to doing everything in my power to ensure that San Franciscans can continue to enjoy clean and safe public parks, playgrounds and recreation centers.

That is why I support San Francisco PRIDE (Parks and Recreation Improvement District for Enhancements), which would create a special benefit assessment district designed to provide a secure base of funding for the maintenance and enhancement of San Francisco parks, playgrounds and recreation centers.

Over the last 10 years, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has faced millions of dollars in budget cuts and its General Fund contribution has been reduced to \$19 million from \$28 million.

The state and federal government continue to solve their financial problems by taking money away from local governments.

In the last two years, the state has taken more than \$144 million from our general fund to balance its own budget. When I assumed office in 1992, I inherited a \$300 million budget deficit from my predecessor, with projected deficits totaling more than \$600 million. I balanced those budgets, while maintaining and enhancing City services, without raising taxes. I achieved this by cutting bureaucratic red tape, streamlining City services and reducing the size of government to enable us to live within our means.

This year we face a \$102 million deficit and we are anticipating additional budget cuts from the state and federal governments. Much of this deficit is due to voter mandates which lock in a percentage of general fund dollars for specific City departments, including the library and full staffing of the police force. While I would prefer not to raise taxes, the reality is that the City cannot afford to maintain the parks without these additional revenues from the assessment district. In fact, we would be forced to close recreation centers and cut park maintenance even further. Specifically, San Francisco PRIDE would:

- Provide a guaranteed level of funding for park maintenance;
- Increase tree planting in City parks;
- Improve rest-room maintenance and litter control in City parks, including removing graffiti and increasing the number of litter receptacles in parks;
- Increase park security;
- Improve maintenance of City athletic fields, recreation centers and playgrounds, including upgrading play equipment and repairing park benches.

PRIDE would raise approximately \$11-15 million annually in new revenues which would be financed through a special assessment on property. The proposed assessment for single-family residences would be approximately \$75 per year. It may vary for commercial and multi-unit



Junk that unwanted mail at the source!

David Assmann

Most of us look forward to the day's delivery of mail. After all, next to the telephone, the mail is probably our most common link to family and friends. But so often, when the day's stack of mail does arrive, it's filled with subscription offers, ads that sell everything from art to zoo memberships, sweepstakes, pleas for money and other "junk" mail. Letters from family and friends are often buried in this blizzard of bulk mail. In fact, we're eight times as likely to receive a piece of junk mail as we are to receive a personal letter.

This mountain of mail is continuing to grow at a phenomenal rate. Last year Americans received more than 77 billion pieces of junk mail — up from 28 billion pieces in 1979. Virtually every single household in the country — 99.2 percent — now receives junk mail. Statistically, your household is now more likely to receive junk mail than to have a working toilet.

Even worse, a significant portion of this mail doesn't even reach its intended recipients. Last year, we cut down more than 15 million trees to produce 1.8 billion pounds of undeliverable junk mail.

According to the U.S. Postal Service, about half of us enjoy receiving bulk mail, and one person in 20 would actually like to receive more. But that leaves over 40 percent who would like to receive less mail.

Unfortunately a very small percentage of junk mail is printed on recycled paper and only about 13 percent of junk mail is recycled nationwide. Junk mail uses up more of our dwindling landfill space than disposable diapers and polystyrene foam products combined!

So what can you do to reduce the burden junk mail places on our landfills? Well, first of all, you can ask to receive less direct mail. Since 1971, the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), the trade association for direct mailers, has operated a "Mail Preference Service" containing the names of individuals who do not wish to receive direct mail. Mailers who are members of the DMA do not send mail to anyone on the list.

In order to get on the list, send your full name and address to the Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008,

Farmingdale, NY, 11735-9008. Your name will stay on this list for five calendar years. At the end of that time, your name will automatically go off the list (on Jan. 31) unless you write them again and ask them to include your name for an additional five years. The list now contains the names of 3.5 million people.

Being on this list won't automatically end all your direct mail tomorrow. It takes several months for your name to work its way through the system, and not every mailer uses the Mail Preference Service. (Some mailers even abuse the list — last year Sears sent a letter to people who had asked not to receive direct mail — telling them that they could keep getting mailings from the company at "no cost at all" if they sent back a postcard to Sears.) Being on the list will, however, significantly reduce the volume of direct mail you receive.

Unfortunately, your name can creep back onto mailing lists in a variety of ways. Direct mailers get their mailing lists from credit bureaus, state motor vehicle departments, telephone books and warranty cards. You can write to credit bureaus asking to be taken off their direct market file — the biggest three to write to are:

- Equifax Options, Equifax Marketing Decision Systems Inc., P.O. Box 740123, Atlanta, GA 30374-0123
- Trans Union, Transmark Inc., 555 W. Adams St., Chicago, IL 60661
- TRW-NCAC, Target Marketing Services Division, 12606 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75243 Attn: Mail Preference Service.

You should also consider not filling out warranty cards — they're used solely to gather names for a mailing list.

Secondly, recycle your junk mail. Although junk mail is accepted for recycling in both the curb-side and apartment bin recycling programs, San Francisco residents recycle less than half of it.

Finally, after you reduce the amount of junk mail you receive (and recycle the rest), there's also a way to get rid of those annoying phone calls from insurance companies who always call just as you're sitting down to dinner. Just write to the Telephone Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014.

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residential properties. Under this proposal, senior citizens would be exempted from this assessment. I urge San Franciscans to support the assessment district to ensure clean and safe parks not only for residents and visitors, but for future generations.

Academy

Continued from page 8

a.m. and 1 p.m.

Camp Academy meets for two sessions in August. Session I, Aug. 2-4, is a trip to the academy's Pepperwood Ranch Natural

Preserve in Sonoma County. Session II, Aug. 21-25, is a day camp at the academy.

Junior Academy membership is \$10 per child per year for non-members and free for children of academy family members. Class and workshop prices are \$20-35, and Camp Academy prices are \$220 for Session I and \$115 for Session II.

For more information call 750-7100.

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Seacliff, Presidio Heights and
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The Richmond ReView welcomes all written articles, news tips, feature story ideas, and photographs from neighborhood contributors.

June Calendar of Events

1-4

United Nations: "San Francisco Revisited: Birthplace of the United Nations," an exhibit featuring the original charter, runs through June 25, de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 863-3330.

Watercolors: See "Natives and Exotics" by Michelle Meyer through June 30, free, daily except Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, call Barbara at 661-1514

History Walks: Meet Peter Garland each Saturday at 11 a.m. on the Polk Street side of City Hall, by the Civic Center Fountain, for an all-day walking tour of City building sculpture Or, meet him each Sunday at 1 p.m. in front of the Ferry Building for a stroll to nearby statues and national treasure murals, (510) 523-1988.

Dance Classes: The Richmond Senior Center teaches ongoing Latin and ballroom dance Fridays, next meeting June 2, 9:30-11 a.m., 6221 Geary Blvd., 752-6444.

YouthTime Campaign Kick-Off: Civic leaders and neighborhood organizers breakfast and hear speakers such as Willie Brown discuss how to expand opportunities for youth in the City, Yerba Buena Gardens, Third and Mission streets, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, June 3, 641-4362.

Dragon Boat Festival: To honor the Chinese summer solstice, the Chinese Culture Center plans a weekend of free family events, featuring an authentic dragon boat, clay figure making, brush painting, music and food, 1-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, Holiday Inn, third floor, 750 Kearny St., 986-1822.

Forums for the Blind: The first Saturday of each month, the blind and those with low vision may attend free talks to help cope with everyday living, next meeting is on June 3 and covers readings of David Swerdlow's writings, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. main foyer of the UCSF Ambulatory

Care Center, 400 Parnassus Ave., call Frances at 626-5313

Plant Show: The African Violet Society of SF's free annual plant show and sale includes unusual varieties as well as demonstrations on growing, planting, handling insects and fertilizing, June 3, show 2-5 p.m. and sale 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and June 4, show and sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m., County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way, call Ed at 751-6037 for information and tickets

Piano Concert: Pianist Jonathan Blev and narrator Beth Taboh-Blev perform works by French composers Satie, Poulenc and Debussy, free, Saturday, June 3, 8 p.m., Community Music Center recital hall, 544 Capp St. between 20th and 21st streets, 647-6015.

Last Gun: A ranger demonstrates the last operational 50-ton cannon and takes visitors to an underground ammunition room, rain cancels, Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., meet at Battery Chamberlin at the north end of Baker Beach parking lot, 556-4484

Workparty: The Sunset-Richmond Greens sponsor a workparty in Golden Gate Park's native oak woodland, Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m.-noon, meet at Conservatory Drive and Arguello, call Susan at 566-1876.

Trios Concert: Beethoven piano/violin/cello compositions are performed, \$8-12, Sunday, June 4, 2 p.m., SF Conservatory of Music Hellman Hall, 1201 Ortega St., 759-3475.

5-11

Presidio Hike: Take a walking tour of the Presidio through more than 200 years of SF history, architecture, cultural landscapes and natural history, June 5 and 30, 2-4 p.m. and June 17 and 25, 10 a.m.-noon, meet walk leader at main post flagpole, rain cancels, reserve at 556-0865

"Days of Russia": This festival celebrates Russian culture through performances of traditional dance and opera, food, souvenirs and literature on Saturday, June 10, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Union Square. A handicrafts exhibit runs June 6-9.

the Bowles/Sorokko Gallery, 765 Beach St., and a film festival chronicling the Russian Orthodox Church's role in the spiritual revival of the New Russia runs June 6-12 at St. Nicholas Cathedral, 2005 15th St. All events free, 929-1035

Science Talk: Dr. Evelyn Handler, former president of Brandeis University and now executive director of the Academy of Sciences, speaks on "Informal Science Education," free, Friday, June 9, 1 p.m., Center for Learning in Retirement, 55 Laguna St. 681-9885.

Rummage Sale: The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation sponsors a sale of clothes, books, household goods, toys and more, Saturday, June 10, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., 1750 29th Avenue, between Moraga and Noriega streets. 564-2324

Hearing Loss: The next meeting of the SF chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People includes a free talk by psychologist Spencer Schein on "Denying Loss of Hearing: Causes and Cures," Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m., Old First Presbyterian Church, Van Ness Avenue and Sacramento Street, 751-4182.

Bonsai Fair: The Bonsai Society of SF celebrates 35 years with a free gala exhibit offering bonsai art demonstrations, tours, sales and door prizes, Saturday-Sunday, June 10-11 11 a.m.-5 p.m., County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, 285-6807

Art Classes: Register for summer classes in stained glass, jewelry making, drawing, watercolor and ceramics at the Sharon Art Studio, the stone building next to the Golden Gate Park carousel, beginning Saturday, June 10, reasonable prices and

scholarships, for all ages. 753-7004

Presidio Habitat: Tour a habitat restoration site and learn how 200 years of Army settlement affected the natural environment of the Presidio, as well as how to help restore native plant life, Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m.-noon, call 556-0865 for meeting location and reservations.

Fuchsia Show: The SF branch of the American Fuchsia Society presents its free annual "Blooms and Arrangements Show," including sales and fuchsia bon-sais, Saturday, June 10, 12-4 p.m., County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, 566-4797

Castaways: Schmooze with this group of married and single ex-New Yorkers in their 30s to 60s on the second Sunday of the month, next meeting June 11, noon, Ton Kiang Chinese Restaurant, 3128 Geary Blvd., 584-6201.

12-18

Health and the Law: Come to the free talk "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care: Who Will Decide When You Can't?" and learn how to legally appoint someone to speak for you if you are ever incapacitated, Monday, June 12, 10-11 a.m., UCSF/Mount Zion Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero St., 476-0373

Potluck: The SF branch of the American Fuchsia Society's next monthly meeting features a potluck dinner and fuchsia slide show, June 12, 6:30 p.m., County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, call Joan at 566-4797

"Cleveland Raining:" Sung J Rho's apocalyptic comedy focuses on a Korean American broth-

er and sister lost in the heartland of America, \$16-21, June 12-July 2, Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m., Asian American Theater Center 403 Arguello Blvd., reserve at 751-2600.

Stamp Slide Show: The next monthly meeting of the Pacific Philatelic Society features a slide show entitled "The American Revolution Bicentennial on

Continued on back page

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June calendar of events

Continued from page 15

International First Day Covers," Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m., Richmond Police Station Community Room, 461 Sixth Ave. between Geary and Anza.

Toastmasters: Afraid of speaking to people? Lands End Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 5 p.m., next meeting June 14, Veterans Administration Building A200, first floor conference room, 42nd Avenue and Clement Street, call Jerry at 661-7378.

Park Stables Meeting: The Park and Recreation Department meeting scheduled for May 25 to discuss the Golden Gate Park Stables has been rescheduled to June 15. Immediately after roll call the concession operator will be selected and the construction plan and award of the lease will be approved, 2 p.m., Golden Gate Park Senior Center, 6101 Fulton St. at 37th Avenue, 666-7064.

Beach Party Campfire: Bring warm sweaters and marshmallows for an hour-long program to enjoy Ocean Beach, the waves and the night, Friday, June 16,

7:30-8:30 p.m., meet ranger on the beach at Great Highway and Lincoln Way, 556-8642.

Art for Kids: Parents and children ages 3 1/2 to 6 can explore and develop creativity by seeing artworks and participating in art-related activities. Children ages 7 to 12 can tour exhibitions and then make art in workshops with professional artists. These drop-in classes are free after regular admission and limited to 25 people, Saturday, June 17, 10:30 a.m.-noon, de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 750-3658.

Adopt-a-Beach: Bring gloves and help clean up Ocean Beach, bags provided, Saturday, June 17, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., meet

ranger in the parking lot at Great Highway and Sloat Boulevard, reserve at 556-8642.

"A World of Gardens": Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations with a day of international garden tours, cultural music and dance, plant sales and food, \$7.50 individual, \$12 family, Saturday, June 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, reserve at 661-1316.

Beach Clean-up: The Surfrider Foundation provides gloves and bags for this garbage clean-up, Sunday, June 18, 10 a.m., look for the clean-up banner at the beach at the end of Pacheco Street, call Maria at 665-4155.

intersection of Point Lobos and 48th avenues, 556-8642.

Australian WalkAbout: See kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies, emus and brush turkeys interact on 2.2 grassy acres when the SF Zoo unveils this new exhibit Sunday, June 25, free with paid admission of \$1.50-7, 753-7080.

Landscape Art: "Facing Eden: 100 Years of Landscape Art in the Bay Area," featuring 175 paintings, sculptures, photographs and films, runs June 25-Sept. 10 at the de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 863-3330.

26-30

Pets Help: SF SPCA Director Richard Avanzino speaks on the therapeutic value of pets, free, Wednesday, June 28, 12-1 p.m., UCSF Health Sciences West building, Room 300, 513 Parnassus Ave., 476-4394.

Mime Drama: The SF Mime Troupe presents "Coast City Confidential: A Hard-boiled Musical Drama," a mystery about a newspaper versus politicians, free, Saturday-Monday, July 1-3, music at 1:30 p.m. and show at 2 p.m., Dolores Park, 19th and Dolores, 258-9980.

Operation SafePed to debut in summer

Continued from page 10

yield to them. This means that a driver entering or exiting a driveway, an access ramp or parking lot must always give way to anyone approaching on the sidewalk.

A violation of any of these sections could result in the issuance of a citation and of a recorded moving violation appearing on a person's driving record.

But there are also a few non-moving violations that are pertinent to any discussion of pedestrian safety. There are a handful of parking violations that directly impact the safe passage of a person walking on a sidewalk.

Section 22500f CVC: This section prohibits parking on a sidewalk. Residents and home owners in the district commonly park across a sidewalk in front of their own home or apartment building. By policy and practice officers do not cite such violations if the vehicle blocks only a portion of the sidewalk and

leaves reasonable and sufficient clearance for pedestrians to pass. However, if the vehicle is an obstruction, citations are issued.

Section 22500b CVC: Blocking a crosswalk. It is always illegal to park a vehicle in such a way as to block a crosswalk. There is little or no tolerance for these violations and they are cited when observed. These violations most frequently occur near post offices, corner markets and others places where a driver intends to leave the vehicle parked "for just a few moments."

Section 22500i CVC: This section makes it illegal to park a vehicle in such a manner as to block all or a portion of a handicapped ramp. Section 100 of the San Francisco Traffic Code prohibits riding of skateboards and bicycles on a sidewalk within a commercial business district. While it is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to encourage the proper use of bicycles, it is potentially very dangerous to ride one on a busy side-

walk. Most of the blocks along the Geary corridor are posted with signs prohibiting using these devices on sidewalks.

The intent of the State Legislature in enacting these traffic laws was to accommodate the use of our streets, sidewalks and highways by all segments of the traffic community, including, of course, motor vehicles and pedestrians. We can all benefit by exercising good traffic habits, adhering to traffic laws, and simply watching out for one another. Let's all work together to make the streets of the Richmond District as safe and friendly as possible.

Officer Ray Shine is the community traffic officer for the Richmond District and is responsible for the development and implementation of Operation SafePed. He will be discussing this program at the Community/Police forum at the Richmond Station on June 20. Contact Officer Jill Connolly at 553-1385 for more information.

19-25

Poets: Explore techniques for transferring feelings into poetry in a warm positive atmosphere and share favorite works, \$12 Thursday, June 22, 7-8:30 p.m. at Mindful Body, 2876 California St.

Sutro Heights Stroll: Take a walking tour of a park that was once the home of Adolph Sutro, Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m.-noon, meet ranger at Lion's Gate at the

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